



Harvest Prayer
MINISTRIES

619 Washington Ave. Terre Haute, IN 47802

October 12, 2010
Dave Butts
Founder, Harvest Prayer Ministries
619 Washington Avenue
Terre Haute, IN 47802

Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

**RE: Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers,
WC Docket No. 07-135;**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

My name is Dave Butts. I am the founder of Harvest Prayer Ministries (HPM), a non-profit organization dedicated to providing teaching and resources to encourage prayer. I am writing to you today because I have learned that Congress and the Federal Communications Commission are contemplating new rules that will do away with free conferencing services. This action will have an immediate dramatic negative effect on thousands of people across the United States who rely on the power of prayer to overcome their struggles. I implore you to consider the consequences of this action.

Back in 2006, some telephone providers started blocking our conference calls so we started using providers that did not block calls. We felt that at least we had a choice to change providers in order to make calls to whomever we want. Now it seems like the telephone providers are going behind our back to try to push through new rules that will once again take away our choice to call whoever we want. This seems to be a lot like blocking the calls. The result is the same, I will not be able to complete my conference calls. The telephone providers tell us how much we have to pay for telephone service and then we must pay their price for that telephone service. Therefore, I do not see how my telephone experience, or the system in general, is better with new rules that give telephone providers the power to determine who I can call. This system seems very oppressive.

As a pastor for almost 30 years, I have witnessed the power of prayer expand from people in their community gathering in churches to thousands of people across the country connecting over the phone line. We help connect prayer leaders in churches with each other, with incredible teachers, and with great resources. Our co-operation with the National Prayer Committee, the National Day of Prayer, and the Global Day of Prayer forms bonds with Christians worldwide. We empower people to meet together over the telephone by offering free teleconferencing services to churches, ministries and other non-profit organizations.

The people we encounter are seeking a way to navigate the challenges they have encountered in their daily lives. The current system has enabled them to find an affordable, uplifting way to cope. Each prayer participant can choose her own telephone service provider and the rate plan that works for them. Before free conferencing, this system was cost prohibitive and each person paid a fee that was priced per minute per person for conferencing services. The cost was so high that I, along with prayer participants, did not use conferencing services very often. No one did. Now, I know from experience that if free conferencing services did not exist, thousands of people across the country would not be participating in prayer. There simply would be no method left to communicate efficiently in a cost effective way.

I founded HPM in 1993, alongside my wife, Kim, after serving as Pastor at Kansas Christian Church for a decade, to transform lives by teaching prayer. Last year, we were able to reach over 100 churches with a message and/or training concerning the mobilization of prayer.

Today, as the economy continues to struggle, we see more and more people reach out to pray. During your rulemaking process, I respectfully ask you to consider these thousands of people across the country who have found their way to prayer and depend on the existence of free conferencing services.

Sincerely,



Dave Butts
Founder, Harvest Prayer Ministries

CC: Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Copps
Commissioner McDowell
Commissioner Clyburn
Commissioner Baker